

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, as renumbered, are pending. Claims 1, 5, 10, 13 and 18-21 (as renumbered) have been amended. The claims have been renumbered because no claim 19 was ever presented. No new matter has been presented.

The claims were objected to for misnumbering. The last three claims have been amended to renumber correctly, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 9-10, 12-14, 18 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection has been overcome in view of the foregoing claim amendments. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ireland, U.S. Patent 6,266,666. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The independent claims of this application have been amended to clarify that transmission to the client or to another target address necessarily requires, with each transmission, selection of the target to which the result of the task should be sent. This was previously recited claim 5.

Although the Examiner has asserted that Ireland teaches sending the result of the query back to the client, the Examiner has not demonstrated that Ireland teaches or suggests that the result of the query is sent back to the client *or* sent to another target. Further, Ireland fails to teach that the result of the query is *optionally* either sent back to the client or sent to another target address. Accordingly, Ireland fails to teach or suggest the features of the independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ireland in view of Helland, U.S. Patent 6,134,594. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

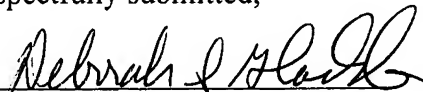
Claim 14 is allowable in view of the foregoing arguments and further in view of Helland's failure to overcome the deficiencies of Ireland. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122063400.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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